

Applicant : Surendra Goel et al.
Serial No. : 09/917,675
Filed : July 31, 2001
Page : 10 of 12

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-194001 / Search 11

REMARKS

Applicants and Applicants' representative wish to thank Primary Examiner Shahid Al Alam and Examiner Jean Fleurantin for assistance extended during the personal interview held on January 20, 2004. In view of the discussion during the interview, the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-43 are pending, with claims 1, 20, and 43 being independent, and claims 39-43 being added by this amendment.

The drawings in the application stand objected to by the Draftsperson as being informal. Applicants request that the drawing objection be held in abeyance pending an allowance of the application.

Claims 1-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Corey et al. (5,987,446). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 20 to clarify the claims for reasons not related to patentability.

As amended, claims 1 and 20 recite a method (claim 1) and a computer program (claim 20) for performing a search for both local electronic content and remote electronic content based on a single query that includes, inter alia, receiving a single query that includes at least one search term. In response to the single query, the received search term automatically is compared with indexed electronic content that is stored on a local device to derive a first result and is compared with electronic content that is stored on a remote device to derive a second result, where the local device is a personal computing device. The first result and the second result are combined into an amalgamated result and the amalgamated result is displayed. As discussed during the in-person interview, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Corey fails to describe or suggest a method/program for performing a search for both local electronic content and remote electronic content based on a single query. More specifically, Corey fails to describe or suggest comparing the received search term with indexed electronic content that is stored on a local device to derive a first result, where the local device is a personal computing device.

Applicant : Surendra Goel et al.
Serial No. : 09/917,675
Filed : July 31, 2001
Page : 11 of 12

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-194001 / Search 11

Instead, Corey describes an information retrieval system that includes multiple text search engines that perform a user search where the output from each of the search engines is combined into a single list of information items. However, Corey fails to describe or suggest comparing the received search term with indexed electronic content that is stored on a local device, where the local device is personal computing device, as recited in amended claims 1 and 20.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1 and 20, and their dependent claims 2-19 and 21-38.

Claims 9 and 28, which depend from amended independent claims 1 and 20, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Corey. Claims 9 and 28 incorporate the features of amended claims 1 and 20. For the reasons discussed above and by virtue of their dependency on amended claims 1 and 20, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claims 9 and 28.

New claims 39-42 depend from claims 2 and 21, which depend from independent claims 1 and 20. For the reasons discussed above with respect to amended independent claims 1 and 20 and by virtue of their dependency on amended claims 1 and 20, Applicants respectfully request allowance of dependent claims 39-42.

New independent claim 43 recites a system for performing a search for both local electronic content and remote electronic content based on a single query that includes the features discussed above with respect to amended independent claims 1 and 20. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claim 43.

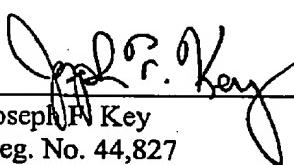
Applicant : Surendra Goel et al.
Serial No. : 09/917,675
Filed : July 31, 2001
Page : 12 of 12

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-194001 / Search 11

Enclosed is a \$90.00 check for excess claim fees. During the pendency of this application, please apply any deficiencies or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 01/23/2004



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